



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY
DECEMBER 31, 2024**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

MetroParks of Butler County
Butler County
2051 Timberman Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

To the Board of Park Commissioners:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the MetroParks of Butler County, Butler County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash-basis financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the District, as of December 31, 2025, and the respective changes in cash-basis financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with the cash-basis of accounting described in Note 2.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Emphasis of Matter - Accounting Basis

We draw attention to Note 2 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 2, and for determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements.

The Schedule of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual (Budgetary Basis) is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements.

Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, this schedule is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual financial report. The other information comprises the management's discussion & analysis, but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 3, 2025, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio
June 3, 2025

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**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

The discussion and analysis of the MetroParks of Butler County (the "District") financial performance provides an overall review of the District's financial activities for the year ended December 31, 2024, within the limitations of the District's cash basis of accounting. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the District's financial performance as a whole. Readers should also review the basic financial statements and notes to the basic financial statements to enhance their understanding of the District's financial performance.

Financial Highlights

Key financial highlights for the year 2024 are as follows:

- Net position increased \$1,085,881 which represents a 12.28% increase from 2023.
- General receipts accounted for \$8,681,998, or 81.71% of all receipts. Program specific receipts, in the form of charges for services and sales and capital grants and contributions, accounted for \$1,943,823 or 18.29% of total receipts of \$10,625,821.
- The District had \$9,539,940 in disbursements related to governmental activities; program-specific charges for services and grants and contributions offset only \$1,943,823 of these disbursements. General receipts supporting governmental activities totaling \$8,681,998 including local taxes, unrestricted grants and entitlements and miscellaneous receipts, were adequate to provide for these programs.
- The District's receipts decreased \$3,833,725 or 26.51% from the prior year. Additionally, the disbursements decreased \$512,424 or 5.10% from the prior year.

Using the Basic Financial Statements

This annual report is presented in a format consistent with the presentation requirements of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34, as applicable to the District's cash basis of accounting.

Report Components

The statement of net position - cash basis and the statement of activities - cash basis provide information about the cash activities of the District as a whole.

Fund financial statements provide a greater level of detail. Funds are created and maintained on the financial records of the District as a way to segregate money whose use is restricted to a particular specified purpose. These statements present financial information by fund, presenting funds with the largest balances or most activity in separate columns.

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of the government-wide and fund financial statements and provide expanded explanation and detail regarding the information reported in the statements.

Basis of Accounting

The basis of accounting is a set of guidelines that determine when financial events are recorded. As permitted in the Ohio Revised Code, the District has elected to present its financial statements on a cash basis of accounting. This basis of accounting is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Under the District's cash basis of accounting, receipts and disbursements are recorded when cash is received or paid.

**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

As a result of the use of this cash basis of accounting, certain assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources, and the effects of these items on revenues and expenses, are not recorded in these financial statements.

Reporting the Board as a Whole

The statement of net position - cash basis and the statement of activities - cash basis reflect how the District performed financially during 2024, within the limitations of the cash basis of accounting. The statement of net position - cash basis presents the cash balances of the governmental activities of the District at year-end. The statement of activities - cash basis compares disbursements with program receipts for each governmental activity. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the program's goods or services and grants and contributions restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. General receipts are all receipts not classified as program receipts. The comparison of disbursements with program receipts identifies how each governmental function draws from the District's general receipts.

These statements report the District's cash position and the changes in cash position. Keeping in mind the limitations of the cash basis of accounting, these changes are one way to measure the District's financial health. Over time, increases or decreases in the District's cash position is an indicator of whether the District's financial health is improving or deteriorating. When evaluating the District's financial condition, considerations include other non-financial factors as well, such as the District's tax base, the condition of the District's capital assets and infrastructure, the extent of the District's debt obligations, the reliance on non-local financial resources for operations, and the need for continued growth.

The statement of net position - cash basis and the statement of activities - cash basis present governmental activities, which include all the District's services. The District has no business-type activities.

Reporting the Board's Most Significant Funds

Fund Financial Statements

Fund financial statements provide detailed information about the District's major funds - not the District as a whole. The District establishes separate funds to better manage its many activities and to help demonstrate that money that is restricted as to how it may be used is being spent for the intended purpose. All of the operating funds of the District are governmental.

Governmental Funds - Most of the District's activities are reported in governmental funds. The governmental fund financial statements provide a detailed short-term view of the District's governmental operations and the health services it provides. Governmental fund information helps determine whether there are more or less financial resources that can be spent to finance the District's programs. The District's significant governmental funds are presented on the financial statements in separate columns. The information for nonmajor funds (funds whose activity or balances are not large enough to warrant separate reporting) is combined and presented in total in a single column. The District's major governmental funds are the general fund and the American Rescue Plan Act Great Miami Trail fund. The programs reported in the governmental funds are closely related to those reported in the governmental activities section of the entity-wide statements.

**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

The District as a Whole

Table 1 provides a summary of the District's net position for 2024 and 2023.

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
<u>Assets:</u>		
Cash with Fiscal Agent	\$ 9,927,087	\$ 8,841,206
Total assets	<u>\$ 9,927,087</u>	<u>\$ 8,841,206</u>
<u>Net position:</u>		
Restricted	\$ 2,925,014	\$ 2,955,209
Unrestricted	<u>7,002,073</u>	<u>5,885,997</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 9,927,087</u>	<u>\$ 8,841,206</u>

The District's cash balance and net position at December 31, 2024 amounted to \$9,927,087. Of this amount, \$2,925,014 is restricted as to use.

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**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

Table 2 reflects the change in net position in 2024 and 2023.

**Table 2
Changes in Net Position - Cash Basis**

	Governmental Activities		
	2024	2023	Change
Receipts:			
Program cash receipts:			
Charges for services and sales	\$ 1,233,279	\$ 1,097,652	\$ 135,627
Capital Grants and Contributions	710,544	3,513,438	(2,802,894)
Total program cash receipts	1,943,823	4,611,090	(2,667,267)
General receipts:			
Local taxes	6,983,247	6,910,868	72,379
Grants, entitlements and donations not restricted by specific program	429,522	440,671	(11,149)
Donations	745,841	1,858,484	(1,112,643)
Interest	345,557	282,947	62,610
Miscellaneous	177,831	355,486	(177,655)
Total general receipts	8,681,998	9,848,456	(1,166,458)
Total receipts	10,625,821	14,459,546	(3,833,725)
Disbursements:			
Salaries and benefits	4,574,904	4,192,031	382,873
Materials and supplies	720,066	725,985	(5,919)
Contracted service	2,414,971	1,467,274	947,697
Other	110,688	116,825	(6,137)
Capital outlay	1,455,023	3,285,824	(1,830,801)
Debt Service:			
Principal retirement	233,382	226,870	6,512
Interest and fiscal charges	30,906	37,555	(6,649)
Total disbursements	9,539,940	10,052,364	(512,424)
Change in net position	1,085,881	4,407,182	(3,321,301)
Net position at beginning of year	8,841,206	4,434,024	4,407,182
Net position at end of year	\$ 9,927,087	\$ 8,841,206	\$ 1,085,881

Governmental Activities

If you look at the statement of activities - cash basis, you will see that the first column lists the major disbursement functions of the District. The next column identifies the disbursement amounts associated with each function. The next three columns of the statement entitled program receipts identify amounts paid by people who are directly charged for the service and grants received by the District that must be used to provide a specific purpose. The net cost column compares the program receipts to the cost of the service. This "net cost" amount represents the cost of the service which ends up being paid from money provided by taxpayers and state subsidies. These net costs are paid from the general receipts which are presented at the bottom of the statement.

**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

**Table 3
Governmental Activities**

	<u>Total Cost of Services 2024</u>	<u>Net Cost of Services 2024</u>	<u>Total Cost of Services 2023</u>	<u>Net Cost of Services 2023</u>
Disbursements:				
Salaries and benefits	\$ 4,574,904	\$ 3,913,822	\$ 4,192,031	\$ 3,693,360
Materials and supplies	720,066	616,015	725,985	639,624
Contracted service	2,414,971	2,169,676	1,467,274	1,292,731
Other	110,688	94,693	116,825	102,928
Capital outlay	1,455,023	537,649	3,285,824	(551,552)
Debt Service:				
Principal retirement	233,382	233,382	226,870	226,870
Interest and fiscal charges	30,906	30,880	37,555	37,313
Totals	<u>\$ 9,539,940</u>	<u>\$ 7,596,117</u>	<u>\$ 10,052,364</u>	<u>\$ 5,441,274</u>

The District's Funds

As noted earlier, the District uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related requirements. The focus of the District's governmental funds is to provide information on receipts, disbursements, and balances of expendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the District's financing requirements. In particular, unassigned fund balance may serve as a useful measure of the District's net resources available for spending at the end of the year.

At the end of 2024, the District had a total ending fund balance of \$9,927,087.

The general fund and the American Rescue Plan Act Great Miami Trail fund are the major funds of the District. At the end of 2024, unassigned fund balance in the general fund was \$5,766,519. As a measure of the general fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare unassigned fund balance to general fund disbursements. Unassigned fund balance represents 67.57% of the total general fund disbursements.

Receipts exceeded disbursements in the general fund by \$1,380,576, excluding other financing sources and uses in 2024. Local taxes account for 70.43% of receipts in the general fund. Salaries and benefits account for 53.60% of disbursements in the general fund. The general fund balance increased \$1,116,076 from \$5,885,997 to an ending balance of \$7,002,073.

The American Rescue Plan Act Great Miami Trail fund had no receipts during the year and \$811 in disbursements.

General Fund Budgeting Highlights

The District's budget is prepared according to Ohio law and is based on accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The most significant budgeted fund is the general fund.

During the course of 2024, the District amended its general fund budget. For the general fund, original budgeted receipts totaled \$9,444,479 and final budgeted receipts were \$9,476,240. Actual receipts for 2024 were \$9,915,267; this represents a \$439,027 increase from final budgeted receipts.

General fund final budgeted disbursements and other financing uses were \$11,630,187 and original budgeted disbursements and other financing uses were 10,702,758. Actual budget-basis disbursements and other financing uses for 2024 totaled \$10,024,787 and were \$1,605,400 less than the final budget. Variances between actual disbursements and budgeted disbursements were due to the timing of capital projects.

**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

Capital Assets

The District does not record capital assets in the accompanying basic financial statements, but records payments for capital assets as disbursements.

Long Term Obligations

The District had the following long-term obligations outstanding at year-end:

	Balance at 12.31.24	Balance at 12.31.23
PNC Special Revenue Refunding Bonds - 2022	<u>912,849</u>	<u>1,146,231</u>
Totals	<u><u>\$ 912,849</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,146,231</u></u>

See Note 3 to the basic financial statements for additional information on the District's long-term obligations.

Current Financial Related Activities

The District is responsible for acquiring, developing, protecting and maintaining park lands and facilities. The District's mission is to provide a superior park system that maximizes the community's quality of life through conservation, education, and recreation. The District continues to seek grant funding and maximize local tax dollars to achieve its mission.

Contacting the District's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, and providers with a general overview of the Board's finances and to reflect the District's accountability for the money it receives. Questions concerning any of the information in this report or requests for additional information should be directed to Jackie O'Connell, Executive Director, 2051 Timberman Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013.

**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION - CASH BASIS
DECEMBER 31, 2024

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Assets	
Cash with Fiscal Agents	\$ 9,927,087
Total assets	<u>\$ 9,927,087</u>
 Net position	
Restricted for:	
Debt Service	\$ 2,403
Capital projects	2,922,611
Unrestricted	<u>7,002,073</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 9,927,087</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES - CASH BASIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

		Program Cash Receipts		Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Net Position
	Cash Disbursements	Charges for Services and Sales	Capital Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities
Governmental activities:				
Salaries and benefits	\$ 4,574,904	\$ 661,082	\$ -	\$ (3,913,822)
Materials and supplies	720,066	104,051	-	(616,015)
Contracted services	2,414,971	245,295	-	(2,169,676)
Other	110,688	15,995	-	(94,693)
Capital outlay	1,455,023	206,856	710,518	(537,649)
Debt Service:				
Principal retirement	233,382	-		(233,382)
Interest and fiscal charges	30,906	-	26	(30,880)
Total governmental activities	<u>\$ 9,539,940</u>	<u>\$ 1,233,279</u>	<u>\$ 710,544</u>	<u>(7,596,117)</u>
General receipts:				
Local taxes				6,983,247
Grants, entitlements and donations not restricted to specific programs				429,522
Donations				745,841
Interest				345,557
Miscellaneous				177,831
Total general receipts				<u>8,681,998</u>
Change in net position				1,085,881
Net position at beginning of year				<u>8,841,206</u>
Net position at end of year				<u>\$ 9,927,087</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

STATEMENT OF CASH BASIS ASSETS AND FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
DECEMBER 31, 2024

	General	American Rescue Plan Act Great Miami Trail	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets				
Cash with fiscal agent	\$ 7,002,073	\$ 2,499,189	\$ 425,825	\$ 9,927,087
Total Assets	<u>\$7,002,073</u>	<u>\$ 2,499,189</u>	<u>\$ 425,825</u>	<u>\$9,927,087</u>
Fund balances				
Restricted	\$ -	\$ 2,499,189	\$ 425,825	\$ 2,925,014
Assigned	1,235,554	-	-	1,235,554
Unassigned	<u>5,766,519</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,766,519</u>
Total fund balances	<u>\$ 7,002,073</u>	<u>\$ 2,499,189</u>	<u>\$ 425,825</u>	<u>\$ 9,927,087</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS
AND CHANGES IN CASH BASIS FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	General	American Rescue Plan Act Great Miami Trail	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Receipts:				
Local taxes	\$ 6,983,247	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,983,247
Program income	1,233,279	-	-	1,233,279
Intergovernmental	429,522	-	-	429,522
Earnings on investments	345,557	-	26	345,583
Donations and other grants	745,841	-	710,518	1,456,359
Miscellaneous	177,821	-	10	177,831
Total receipts	<u>9,915,267</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>710,554</u>	<u>10,625,821</u>
Disbursements:				
Current:				
Conservation / recreation:				
Salaries and benefits	4,574,904	-	-	4,574,904
Materials and supplies	720,066	-	-	720,066
Contracted services	1,697,520	811	716,640	2,414,971
Other	110,688	-	-	110,688
Capital outlay	1,431,513	-	23,510	1,455,023
Debt service:				
Principal retirement	-	-	233,382	233,382
Interest and fiscal charges	-	-	30,906	30,906
Total disbursements	<u>8,534,691</u>	<u>811</u>	<u>1,004,438</u>	<u>9,539,940</u>
Excess of disbursements over receipts.	<u>1,380,576</u>	<u>(811)</u>	<u>(293,884)</u>	<u>1,085,881</u>
Other financing sources (uses):				
Transfers in	-	-	264,500	264,500
Transfers (out)	(264,500)	-	-	(264,500)
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(264,500)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>264,500</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balances	1,116,076	(811)	(29,384)	1,085,881
Fund balances at beginning of year	<u>5,885,997</u>	<u>2,500,000</u>	<u>455,209</u>	<u>8,841,206</u>
Fund balances at end of year	<u>\$ 7,002,073</u>	<u>\$ 2,499,189</u>	<u>\$ 425,825</u>	<u>\$ 9,927,087</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

NOTE 1 - REPORTING ENTITY

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the MetroParks of Butler County, Butler County, Ohio (the "District"), as a body corporate and politic. The probate judge of Butler County appoints a three-member Board of Commissioners to govern the District. The Commissioners are authorized to acquire, develop, protect, maintain, and improve park lands and facilities. The Commissioners may convert acquired land into forest reserves. The Commissioners are also responsible for activities related to conserving natural resources, including streams, lakes, submerged lands, and swamp lands. The Board may also create parks, parkways, and other reservations and may afforest, develop, improve and protect and promote the use of these assets conducive to the general welfare.

The District's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the District is financially accountable.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING

A. Basis of Accounting and Presentation

The financial statements are presented on a cash basis of accounting. This cash basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). GAAP includes all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, which have been applied to the extent they are applicable to the cash basis of accounting.

The District's basic financial statements consist of government-wide financial statements, including a statement of net position - cash basis and a statement of activities - cash basis, and cash fund financial statements, which provide a more detailed level of financial information.

Government-wide Financial Statements

The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the District as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government, except for fiduciary funds. The statements show those activities of the District that are governmental. Governmental activities generally are financed through intergovernmental receipts or other nonexchange transactions.

The statement of net position - cash basis presents the cash balance of the governmental activities of the District at year-end. The statement of activities - cash basis compares disbursements and program receipts for each program or function of the District's governmental activities. Disbursements are reported by function. A function is a group of related activities designed to accomplish a major service or regulatory program for which the District is responsible. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program, grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational requirements of a particular program. Receipts which are not classified as program receipts are presented as general receipts of the District, with certain, limited exceptions. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each governmental program is self-financing on a cash basis or draws from the general receipts of the District.

Fund Financial Statements

During the year, the District segregates transactions related to certain District functions or activities in separate funds in order to aid financial management and to demonstrate legal compliance. Fund financial statements are designed to present financial information of the District at this more detailed level. The focus of governmental fund financial statements is on major funds. Each major fund is presented in a separate column. Non-major funds are aggregated and presented in a single column. Fiduciary funds are reported by fund type.

**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

B. Cash with Fiscal Agent

As the Ohio Revised Code permits, the Butler County Treasurer holds the District's cash as the District's custodian. The County holds the District's assets in its investment pool, valued at the Treasurer's reported carrying amount.

C. Fund Accounting

The District uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. There are three categories of funds: governmental, proprietary and fiduciary. The District has no proprietary or fiduciary funds. Funds are used to segregate resources that are restricted as to use.

Governmental Funds

Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions of the District are financed. The following are the District's major governmental funds:

General Fund - The general fund accounts for and reports all financial resources, except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The general fund balance is available to the District for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

American Rescue Plan Act Great Miami Trail – The American Rescue Plan Act Great Miami Trail accounts for and reports resources restricted by grants for capital outlay related for the Great Miami Trail capital project.

Other governmental funds of the District are used to account for:

Nonmajor capital projects funds - Capital projects funds are used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets.

Nonmajor debt service funds - Debt service funds are used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for principal and interest.

D. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function or item level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The District Board must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus unencumbered cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must also approve estimated resources.

**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated.

E. Fund Balance

Under GASB No. 54, fund balances are divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the District must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

1. Nonspendable

The nonspendable fund balance category includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form, or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The “not in spendable form” criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash.

2. Restricted

Fund balance is reported as restricted when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions. Enabling legislation authorizes the District to assess, levy, charge, or otherwise mandate payment of resources (from external resource providers) and includes a legally enforceable requirement that those resources be used only for the specific purposes stipulated in the legislation. Legal enforceability means that the District can be compelled by an external party—such as citizens, public interest groups, or the judiciary to use resources created by enabling legislation only for the purposes specified by the legislation.

3. Committed

The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by formal action (resolution) of the Board. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Board removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. In contrast to fund balance that is restricted by enabling legislation, the committed fund balance classification may be redeployed for other purposes with appropriate due process. Constraints imposed on the use of committed amounts are imposed by the Board, separate from the authorization to raise the underlying revenue; therefore, compliance with these constraints is not considered to be legally enforceable. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

4. Assigned

Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. Governmental funds other than the general fund report all fund balances as *assigned* unless they are restricted or committed. In the general fund, *assigned* amounts represent intended uses established by the Board or a District official delegated that authority by resolution, or by State Statute.

**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

5. Unassigned

Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes amounts not included in other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance.

The District applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

F. Capital Assets

The District records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

G. Accumulated Leave

For 2024, GASB Statement No. 101, "Compensated Absences", was effective. GASB 101 defines a compensated absence as leave for which employees may receive cash payments when the leave is used for time off or receive cash payments for unused leave upon termination of employment. These payments could occur during employment or upon termination of employment. Compensated absences generally do not have a set payment schedule. The District does not offer noncash settlements.

District employees earn sick and vacation time that can be used for time off. In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment or retirement, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave.

This GASB pronouncement had no effect on beginning net position/fund balance as unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the District's cash basis of accounting.

H. Net Position

Net position is reported as restricted to the extent of limitations imposed on its use, either through enabling legislation or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. Net position restricted for other purposes includes monies restricted by grantors and reported in special revenue funds.

The Board's policy is to first apply restricted resources when an obligation is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available.

I. Employer Contributions to Cost-Sharing Pension Plans

The District recognizes the disbursement for employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plans when they are paid. As described in Notes 5 and 6, the employer contributions include portions for pension benefits and for postemployment health care benefits.

**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

J. Long-Term Obligations

The District's cash basis financial statements do not report liabilities for long-term obligations. Proceeds of debt are reported when cash is received, and principal and interest payments are reported when paid. Since recording a capital asset (including the intangible right to use) when entering into a lease transaction is not the result of a cash transaction, neither an other financing source nor a capital outlay expenditure is reported at inception. Lease payments are reported when paid.

K. Leases

The District is the lessor in leases for equipment and land under noncancelable leases. Leases payables are not reflected under the District's cash basis of accounting. Lease disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

L. Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements

Accruals related to Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) contracts (as defined by GASB 96) are not reflected under the District's cash basis of accounting. SBITA disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

M. Interfund Activity

Transfers within governmental activities are eliminated on the government-wide financial statements.

Internal allocations of overhead expenses from one function to another or within the same function are eliminated on the statement of activities.

Exchange transactions between funds are reported as receipts in the seller funds and disbursements in the purchaser funds. Flows of cash or goods from one fund to another without a requirement for repayment are reported as interfund transfers. Interfund transfers are reported as other financing sources/uses in governmental funds. Repayments from funds responsible for particular disbursements to the funds that initially paid for them are not presented on the financial statements.

NOTE 3 - DEBT

At December 31, 2024, debt obligations consisted of the following issuances:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Balance at 12/31/2024</u>
PNC Special Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2022 to refinance Series 2017 Special Revenue bonds, bear an interest rate of 2.85%. Payments are made from the debt service fund and mature in 2028.	\$ 912,849
Total	<u><u>\$ 912,849</u></u>

**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

NOTE 3 - DEBT - (Continued)

Transactions for the year ended December 31, 2024 is summarized as follows:

	Balance at <u>12/31/2023</u>	<u>Proceeds</u>	<u>Retirements</u>	Balance at <u>12/31/2024</u>
PNC Special Revenue Refunding Bonds - 2022	1,146,231	-	(233,382)	912,849
Total	<u>\$ 1,146,231</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (233,382)</u>	<u>\$ 912,849</u>

The principal and interest requirements to retire the debt obligations outstanding at December 31, 2024, are as follows:

Year Ending <u>December 31,</u>	<u>2022 PNC Special Revenue Refunding Bonds</u>		
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	240,080	24,318	264,398
2026	246,971	17,427	264,398
2027	254,060	10,338	264,398
2028	<u>171,738</u>	<u>3,679</u>	<u>175,417</u>
Totals	<u>\$ 912,849</u>	<u>\$ 55,762</u>	<u>\$ 968,611</u>

During the fiscal year, the District entered into a lease agreement for copiers. Future obligations for this agreement are not reflected under the District's cash basis of accounting.

NOTE 4 - PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Board adopted tax rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback amounts the State pays as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

Public utilities are also taxed on personal and real property located within the District.

The County is responsible for assessing property, and for billing, collecting, and distributing all property taxes on behalf of the District.

NOTE 5 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

Plan Description - Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)

Plan Description - District employees participate in the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple employer public employee retirement system which administers three separate pension plans. The traditional pension plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. The member-directed plan is a defined contribution plan and the combined plan is a combination cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit/defined contribution pension plan. Effective January 1, 2022, new members may no longer select the Combined Plan, and current members may no longer make a plan change to this plan. Participating employers are divided into state, local, law enforcement and public safety divisions. While members in the state and local divisions may participate in all three plans, law enforcement and public safety divisions exist only within the traditional plan.

**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

NOTE 5 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

OPERS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits, and annual cost of living adjustments to members of the traditional and combined plans. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. OPERS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about OPERS' fiduciary net position that may be obtained by visiting <https://www.opers.org/financial/reports.shtml>, by writing to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642, or by calling 800-222-7377.

Senate Bill (SB) 343 was enacted into law with an effective date of January 7, 2013. In the legislation, members in the traditional and combined plans were categorized into three groups with varying provisions of the law applicable to each group.

The following table provides age and service requirements for retirement and the retirement formula applied to final average salary (FAS) for the three member groups under the traditional and combined plans as per the reduced benefits adopted by SB 343 (see OPERS Annual Comprehensive Financial Report referenced above for additional information, including requirements for reduced and unreduced benefits):

Group A Eligible to retire prior to January 7, 2013 or five years after January 7, 2013	Group B 20 years of service credit prior to January 7, 2013 or eligible to retire ten years after January 7, 2013	Group C Members not in other Groups and members hired on or after January 7, 2013
State and Local	State and Local	State and Local
Age and Service Requirements: Age 60 with 60 months of service credit or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements: Age 60 with 60 months of service credit or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements: Age 57 with 25 years of service credit or Age 62 with 5 years of service credit
Traditional Plan Formula: 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 30	Traditional Plan Formula: 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 30	Traditional Plan Formula: 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 35 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 35
Combined Plan Formula: 1% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 1.25% for service years in excess of 30	Combined Plan Formula: 1% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 1.25% for service years in excess of 30	Combined Plan Formula: 1% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 35 years and 1.25% for service years in excess of 35
Public Safety	Public Safety	Public Safety
Age and Service Requirements: Age 48 with 25 years of service credit or Age 52 with 15 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements: Age 48 with 25 years of service credit or Age 52 with 15 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements: Age 52 with 25 years of service credit or Age 56 with 15 years of service credit
Law Enforcement	Law Enforcement	Law Enforcement
Age and Service Requirements: Age 52 with 15 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements: Age 48 with 25 years of service credit or Age 52 with 15 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements: Age 48 with 25 years of service credit or Age 56 with 15 years of service credit
Public Safety and Law Enforcement	Public Safety and Law Enforcement	Public Safety and Law Enforcement
Traditional Plan Formula: 2.5% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 25 years and 2.1% for service years in excess of 25	Traditional Plan Formula: 2.5% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 25 years and 2.1% for service years in excess of 25	Traditional Plan Formula: 2.5% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 25 years and 2.1% for service years in excess of 25

**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

NOTE 5 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Traditional plan state and local members who retire before meeting the age-and-years of service credit requirement for unreduced benefits receive a percentage reduction in the benefit amount. The amount of a member's pension benefit vests at retirement.

Law enforcement and public safety members who retire before meeting the age-and-years of service credit requirement for unreduced benefits receive a percentage reduction in the benefit amount.

Combined plan members retiring before age 65 with less than 30 years of service credit receive a percentage reduction in benefit.

Final average Salary (FAS) represents the average of the three highest years of earnings over a member's career for Groups A and B. Group C is based on the average of the five highest years of earnings over a member's career.

When a traditional plan benefit recipient has received benefits for 12 months, the member is eligible for an annual cost of living adjustment (COLA). This COLA is calculated on the member's original base retirement benefit at the date of retirement and is not compounded. Members retiring under the combined plan receive a cost-of-living adjustment on the defined benefit portion of their pension benefit. For those who retired prior to January 7, 2013, the cost-of-living adjustment is 3.00%. For those retiring on or after January 7, 2013, beginning in calendar year 2019, the adjustment is based on the average percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index, capped at 3.00%.

Defined contribution plan benefits are established in the plan documents, which may be amended by the Board. Member-directed plan and combined plan members who have met the retirement eligibility requirements may apply for retirement benefits. The amount available for defined contribution benefits in the combined plan consists of the member's contributions plus or minus the investment gains or losses resulting from the member's investment selections. Combined plan members wishing to receive benefits must meet the requirements for both the defined benefit and defined contribution plans. Member-directed participants must have attained the age of 55, have money on deposit in the defined contribution plan and have terminated public service to apply for retirement benefits. The amount available for defined contribution benefits in the member-directed plan consists of the members' contributions, vested employer contributions and investment gains or losses resulting from the members' investment selections. Employer contributions and associated investment earnings vest over a five-year period, at a rate of 20.00% each year. At retirement, members may select one of several distribution options for payment of the vested balance in their individual OPERS accounts. Options include the annuitization of the benefit (which includes joint and survivor options and will continue to be administered by OPERS), partial lump-sum payments (subject to limitations), a rollover of the vested account balance to another financial institution, receipt of entire account balance, net of taxes withheld, or a combination of these options. When members choose to annuitize their defined contribution benefit, the annuitized portion of the benefit is reclassified to a defined benefit.

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**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

NOTE 5 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Funding Policy - The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions as follows:

	<u>State and Local</u>		
	<u>Traditional</u>	<u>Combined</u>	<u>Law Enforcement</u>
2024 Statutory Maximum Contribution Rates			
Employer	14.0 %	14.0 %	18.1 %
Employee *	10.0 %	10.0 %	***
2024 Actual Contribution Rates			
Employer:			
Pension ****	14.0 %	12.0 %	18.1 %
Post-employment Health Care Benefits *****	<u>0.0</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>
Total Employer	<u>14.0 %</u>	<u>14.0 %</u>	<u>18.1 %</u>
Employee	<u>10.0 %</u>	<u>10.0 %</u>	<u>13.0 %</u>

* Member contributions within the combined plan are not used to fund the defined benefit retirement allowance.

*** This rate is also determined by OPERS' Board, but is limited by ORC to not more than 2 percent greater than the Public Safety rate.

***** These pension and employer health care rates are for the traditional and combined plans. The employer contributions rate for the member-directed plan is allocated 4 percent for health care with the remainder going to pension; however, effective July 1, 2022, a portion of the health care rate is funded with reserves.

Employer contribution rates are actuarially determined within the constraints of statutory limits for each division and expressed as a percentage of covered payroll.

The District's contractually required contribution for the Traditional Pension Plan, the Combined Plan and Member-Directed Plan was \$460,441 for 2024.

NOTE 6 - POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Plan Description - Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)

Plan Description - The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) administers three separate pension plans: the traditional pension plan, a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan; the member-directed plan, a defined contribution plan; and the combined plan, a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that has elements of both a defined benefit and defined contribution plan.

**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

NOTE 6 - POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS - (Continued)

OPERS maintains a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit post-employment health care trust. The 115 Health Care Trust (115 Trust or Health Care Trust) was established in 2014, under Section 115 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The purpose of the 115 Trust is to fund health care for the Traditional Pension, Combined and Member-Directed plans. The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not require, OPERS to provide health care to its eligible benefit recipients. Authority to establish and amend health care coverage is provided to the Board in Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. Retirees in the Traditional Pension and Combined plans may have an allowance deposited into a health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) account to be used toward the health care program of their choice and other eligible expenses. An OPERS vendor is available to assist with the selection of a health care program.

With one exception, OPERS-provided health care coverage is neither guaranteed nor statutorily required. Ohio law currently requires Medicare Part A equivalent coverage or Medicare Part A premium reimbursement for eligible retirees and their eligible dependents.

OPERS offers a health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) allowance to benefit recipients meeting certain age and service credit requirements. The HRA is an account funded by OPERS that provides tax free reimbursement for qualified medical expenses such as monthly post-tax insurance premiums, deductibles, co-insurance, and co-pays incurred by eligible benefit recipients and their dependents.

OPERS members enrolled in the Traditional Pension Plan or Combined Plan retiring with an effective date of January 1, 2022, or after must meet the following health care eligibility requirements to receive an HRA allowance:

Age 65 or older Retirees Minimum of 20 years of qualifying service credit

Age 60 to 64 Retirees Based on the following age-and-service criteria:

Group A 30 years of total service with at least 20 years of qualified health care service credit;

Group B 31 years of total service credit with at least 20 years of qualified health care service credit;

Group C 32 years of total service credit with at least 20 years of qualified health care service credit.

Age 59 or younger Based on the following age-and-service criteria:

Group A 30 years of qualified health care service credit;

Group B 32 years of qualified health care service credit at any age or 31 years of qualified health care service credit and at least age 52;

Group C 32 years of qualified health care service credit and at least age 55.

Retirees who do not meet the requirement for coverage as a non-Medicare participant can become eligible for coverage at age 65 if they have at least 20 years of qualifying service.

**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

NOTE 6 - POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS - (Continued)

Members with a retirement date prior to January 1, 2022, who were eligible to participate in the OPERS health care program will continue to be eligible after January 1, 2022, as summarized in the following table:

Group A	Group B	Group C
Age and Service Requirements <i>December 1, 2014 or Prior</i>	Age and Service Requirements <i>December 1, 2014 or Prior</i>	Age and Service Requirements <i>December 1, 2014 or Prior</i>
Any Age with 10 years of service credit	Any Age with 10 years of service credit	Any Age with 10 years of service credit
January 1, 2015 through <i>December 31, 2021</i>	January 1, 2015 through <i>December 31, 2021</i>	January 1, 2015 through <i>December 31, 2021</i>
Age 60 with 20 years of service credit or Any Age with 30 years of service credit	Age 52 with 31 years of service credit or Age 60 with 20 years of service credit or Any Age with 32 years of service credit	Age 55 with 32 years of service credit or Age 60 with 20 years of service credit

See the Age and Service Retirement section of the OPERS ACFR for a description of Groups A, B and C.

Eligible retirees may receive a monthly HRA allowance for reimbursement of health care coverage premiums and other qualified medical expenses. Monthly allowances, based on years of service and the age at which the retiree first enrolled in OPERS coverage, are provided to eligible retirees, and are deposited into their HRA account.

The base allowance is determined by OPERS and is currently \$1,200 per month for non-Medicare retirees and \$350 per month for Medicare retirees. The retiree receives a percentage of the base allowance, calculated based on years of qualifying service credit and age when the retiree first enrolled in OPERS health care. Monthly allowances range between 51.00% and 90.00% of the base allowance for both non-Medicare and Medicare retirees.

Retirees will have access to the OPERS Connector, which is a relationship with a vendor selected by OPERS to assist retirees participating in the health care program. The OPERS Connector may assist retirees in selecting and enrolling in the appropriate health care plan.

When members become Medicare-eligible, recipients enrolled in OPERS health care programs must enroll in Medicare Part A (hospitalization) and Medicare Part B (medical).

OPERS reimburses retirees who are not eligible for premium-free Medicare Part A (hospitalization) for their Part A premiums as well as any applicable surcharges (late-enrollment fees). Retirees within this group must enroll in Medicare Part A and select medical coverage, and may select prescription coverage, through the OPERS Connector. OPERS also will reimburse 50.00% of the Medicare Part A premium and any applicable surcharges for eligible spouses. Proof of enrollment in Medicare Part A and confirmation that the retiree is not receiving reimbursement or payment from another source must be submitted. The premium reimbursement is added to the monthly pension benefit.

Participants in the Member-Directed Plan have access to the Connector and have a separate health care funding mechanism. A portion of employer contributions for these participants is allocated to a retiree medical account (RMA). Members who elect the Member-Directed Plan after July 1, 2015, will vest in the RMA over 15 years at a rate of 10.00% each year starting with the sixth year of participation. Members who elected the Member-Directed Plan prior to July 1, 2015, vest in the RMA over a five-year period at a rate of 20.00% per year. Upon separation or retirement, participants may use vested RMA funds for reimbursement of qualified medical expenses.

Disclosures for the health care plan are presented separately in the OPERS financial report. Interested parties may obtain a copy by visiting <https://www.opers.org/financial/reports.shtml>, by writing to OPERS, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642, or by calling (614) 222-5601 or 800-222-7377.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

NOTE 6 - POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS - (Continued)

Funding Policy - The Ohio Revised Code provides the statutory authority allowing public employers to fund postemployment health care through their contributions to OPERS. When funding is approved by OPERS Board of Trustees, a portion of each employer's contribution to OPERS is set aside to fund OPERS health care plans. Beginning in 2018, OPERS no longer allocated a portion of its employer contributions to health care for the traditional plan.

Employer contribution rates are expressed as a percentage of the earnable salary of active members. In 2024, state and local employers contributed at a rate of 14.00% of earnable salary. These are the maximum employer contribution rates permitted by the Ohio Revised Code. Active member contributions do not fund health care.

Each year, the OPERS Board determines the portion of the employer contribution rate that will be set aside to fund health care plans. For 2024, OPERS did not allocate any employer contribution to health care for members in the Traditional Pension Plan. Beginning July 1, 2022, there was a 2.00% allocation to health care for the Combined Plan which has continued through 2024. The OPERS Board is also authorized to establish rules for the retiree or their surviving beneficiaries to pay a portion of the health care provided. Payment amounts vary depending on the number of covered dependents and the coverage selected. The employer contribution as a percentage of covered payroll deposited into the RMA for participants in the member-directed plan for 2024 was 4.00%. Effective July 1, 2022, a portion of the health care rate was funded with reserves which has continued through 2024.

Employer contribution rates are actuarially determined and are expressed as a percentage of covered payroll.

NOTE 7 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The District belongs to the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) (the "Plan"), a unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management programs and other administrative services to Ohio governments ("Members"). The Plan is legally separate from its member governments.

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the plan provides property, liability, errors and omissions, law enforcement, automobile, excess liability, crime, surety and bond, inland marine and other coverages to its members sold through fourteen appointed independent agents in the State of Ohio.

Effective November 1, 2016, the OPRM elected to participate in a property loss corridor deductible. The property corridor includes losses paid between 70% and 75%. In 2018, the casualty loss corridor was eliminated and the property corridor was adjusted to losses paid between 65% and 70%. Effective November 1, 2019, the property loss corridor was adjusted to losses between 60% and 67.5% and has remained unchanged. OPRM had 801 members as of December 31, 2023.

The Pool's audited financial statements conform with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, with the exception of a qualified opinion related to recording premiums and membership fees earned in full as of December 31, 2023 (the latest information available). Those premiums and fees should be earned pro-rata over the individual coverage and membership periods of each policy. The financial statements reported the following assets, liabilities and equity at December 31, 2023.

	2023
Assets	\$23,113,696
Liabilities	<u>(16,078,587)</u>
Members'	
Equity	<u>\$7,035,109</u>

You can read the complete audited financial statements for OPRM at the Plan's website, www.ohioplan.org.

**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

NOTE 8 - CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

LITIGATION

The District is involved in no material litigation as either a plaintiff or defendant.

GRANT FUNDING

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the District are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

NOTE 9 - FUND BALANCES

Fund balance is classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and/or unassigned based primarily on the extent to which the District is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the governmental funds. The constraints placed on fund balance for the major governmental funds and all other governmental funds are presented below:

Fund Balances	General Fund	American Rescue Plan Act Great Miami Trail	Other Governmental Funds	Total
Restricted for				
Debt Service	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,403	\$ 2,403
Capital Projects	-	2,499,189	423,422	2,922,611
<i>Total Restricted</i>	-	2,499,189	425,825	2,925,014
Assigned for				
Subsequent year appropriations	9,958			9,958
Encumbrances	1,225,596	-	-	1,225,596
<i>Total Assigned</i>	1,235,554	-	-	1,235,554
Unassigned	5,766,519	-	-	5,766,519
<i>Total Fund Balances</i>	<u>\$ 7,002,073</u>	<u>\$ 2,499,189</u>	<u>\$ 425,825</u>	<u>\$ 9,927,087</u>

NOTE 10 - INTERFUND TRANSFERS

Interfund transfers for the year ended December 31, 2024, consisted of the following, as reported on the fund financial statements:

<u>Transfers from general fund to:</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Nonmajor governmental	<u>\$ 264,500</u>
Total	<u>\$ 264,500</u>

Transfers are used to move revenues from the fund that statute or budget required to collect them to the fund that statute or budget requires to expend them and to use unrestricted revenues collected in the general fund to finance various programs accounted for in other funds in accordance with budgetary authorizations.

Interfund transfers between governmental funds are eliminated for reporting in the statement of activities. All transfers were made in compliance with Ohio Revised Code Sections 5705.14, 5705.15 and 5705.16.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULE OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH
BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL - BUDGETARY BASIS
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts Budgetary Basis	Variance with Final Budget over (under) Actual Amounts
	Original	Final		
Budgetary receipts:				
Local taxes	\$ 6,900,000	\$ 6,900,000	\$ 6,983,247	\$ 83,247
Program income	916,478	1,083,629	1,233,279	149,650
Intergovernmental	319,188	377,403	429,522	52,119
Earnings on investments	256,791	303,626	345,557	41,931
Grants and donations	919,879	655,338	745,841	90,503
Miscellaneous	132,143	156,244	177,821	21,577
Total budgetary receipts	<u>9,444,479</u>	<u>9,476,240</u>	<u>9,915,267</u>	<u>439,027</u>
Budgetary disbursements:				
Current:				
Conservation / recreation:				
Salaries and benefits	5,162,022	4,532,072	4,574,904	42,832
Materials and supplies	956,432	1,021,592	838,349	(183,243)
Contracted services	2,122,743	2,920,571	2,378,168	(542,403)
Other	135,612	185,343	141,311	(44,032)
Capital outlay	2,062,949	2,706,109	1,827,555	(878,554)
Total budgetary disbursements	<u>10,439,758</u>	<u>11,365,687</u>	<u>9,760,287</u>	<u>(1,605,400)</u>
Excess (deficiency) of budgetary receipts over (under) budgetary disbursements	<u>(995,279)</u>	<u>(1,889,447)</u>	<u>154,980</u>	<u>2,044,427</u>
Other budgetary financing sources (uses):				
Transfers out	<u>(263,000)</u>	<u>(264,500)</u>	<u>(264,500)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total other budgetary financing sources (uses)	<u>(263,000)</u>	<u>(264,500)</u>	<u>(264,500)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund cash balance	(1,258,279)	(2,153,947)	(109,520)	2,044,427
Budgetary fund balance at beginning of year	4,856,452	4,856,452	4,856,452	-
Prior year encumbrances appropriated	<u>1,029,545</u>	<u>1,029,545</u>	<u>1,029,545</u>	<u>-</u>
Budgetary fund balance at end of year	<u>\$ 4,627,718</u>	<u>\$ 3,732,050</u>	<u>\$ 5,776,477</u>	<u>\$ 2,044,427</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

NOTE 1 - BUDGETARY PROCESS

The budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on the basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The Schedule of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements and Changes in Fund Cash Balance - Budget and Actual - Budgetary Basis presented for the general fund is prepared on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget. The difference between the budgetary basis and the cash basis are as follows:

1. Outstanding year end encumbrances are treated as a cash disbursements (budgetary basis) rather than as restricted, committed or assigned fund balance (cash basis).
2. Some funds are included in the general fund (cash basis) but have separate legally adopted budgets (budgetary basis).

Adjustments necessary to convert the results of operations at the end of the year on the budgetary basis to the cash basis are as follows:

	<u>General</u>
Budgetary basis	\$ (109,520)
Encumbrances	<u>1,225,596</u>
Cash basis	<u><u>\$ 1,116,076</u></u>

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
800-282-0370

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

MetroParks of Butler County
Butler County
2051 Timberman Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

To the Board of Education:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the MetroParks of Butler County, Butler County, Ohio (the District) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated June 3, 2025, wherein we noted the District uses a special purpose framework other than generally accepted accounting principles.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the District's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio
June 3, 2025

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY

BUTLER COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



Certified for Release 6/17/2025

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov